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# The Gateway

they're only  
human

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—Theo Bruseker photo

**GATEWAY'S HOG** riding courier braved slippery streets to bring you the news. Actually, Peter Johnston wanted a picture to send home to his mother so she would know what trials he goes through to attend this weather forsaken institution. The state of his windshield should convince her he needs an unconvertible.

## New hope for peace in Biafra

Biafra is still alive after repelling the most recent offensive this week by federalist Nigerian forces, bolstered by an increase in British arms and looking for a quick, final victory.

Stanley Burke, at U of A Thursday to talk to 600 students about Biafra, learned in a telephone conversation with Ted Johnson of Canair relief in Toronto that the

latest military operation has not changed much.

Also, it appears that there is suddenly new hope for a negotiated settlement, in a secretive conference of church leaders, gathering at the call of the All-African Council of Churches to discuss the Biafran tragedy. Several top political leaders in Biafra and Nigeria are also church leaders.

## Platform for change

# B.Ed. programs may become more flexible

By WINSTON GERELUK

Changes will be proposed in the Bachelor of Education program at the U of A at the next Faculty of Education Council meeting Tuesday.

After two and one-half years of preparation, the B.Ed. Revision Committee is ready to propose that moderate changes towards greater flexibility and choice of program be implemented in the teacher training program.

More specifically, the committee's proposal is to retain the basic structure of a four-year, 20-course B.Ed. program; but to introduce variety through a number of "model programs" or patterns tailored to the differing student needs.

Education dean H. T. Coutts said the suggested revisions provided probably the best answer to teacher education so far.

While the report offered no perfect solutions, he said, he is "very much drawn" to the proposed model.

### FLEXIBILITY IN CHOICE

Flexibility would be present, also, in the students' choice of content in each model. Each proposed model would combine in varying proportions, six basic components: non-education courses (to allow exploration in areas unrelated to education), teaching specialization, student teaching, curriculum and instruction, basic education, and free option courses.

Further, because the committee views the preparation of teachers as an "all-university" responsibility, non-education faculties at the U of A will be called on to provide even more "specialty" and option courses, as at least ten of these will be required in each model.

If the committee's recommendations are accepted, increased student counselling would become necessary to enable students to "make intelligent choices among alternative models and within any model."

A brief summary of the proposed models includes:

• B.Ed. Elementary Route — Model A deviates from present practice only to facilitate transfers in and out of Education to and from other faculties.

### FIELD EXPERIENCE CORE

Model B features a "field experience core" and will enable professors to use a "team" approach and an integrated curriculum.

Model C will basically attempt to "test the value of a concentration of courses in a basic education area (e.g., counselling, foundations, etc.)."

• B.Ed. Secondary Route — Model D is an extension of the existing program to provide "greater flexibility and opportunity for student choice." The proposal is that it contain at least six courses in the teaching specialty and five "education" courses.

Model E will permit a comparison of the conflicting claims for a "concurrent" and a "concentrated" teacher specialization course, with a third-year "professional" year.

Model F will place the student teaching in three five-week periods, to be fulfilled in May and June of each of the first three years of the teacher training program. This proposal introduces at the same time the use of schools outside of metropolitan Edmonton as co-operating schools.

Model G is for the Industrial Arts route and will offer a greater concentration of laboratory courses to the students in their fourth year.

Models H and I are the Vocational Education Routes for holders of journeyman or equivalent, and high school graduates respectively.

Finally, the revision committee has made the following recommendations:

1. That revisions be implemented gradually or in stages in accordance with the resources of the faculty and the departments.

2. That the Office of the Dean be requested to co-ordinate the development and implementation of revisions within the framework.

3. That an agency be designated to evaluate the various programs.

4. That a counselling system be organized.

5. That a system of pre-registration be developed.

6. That departments be encouraged to plan courses designed to meet the variety of requirements of the basic framework.

### INTERESTED STUDENTS

Students interested in the changes suggested in the report can obtain copies in Dean Coutts' office, eight floor, Education Building.

The Dean says he wants to encourage education students to react to the proposed revision and has given his assurance that any "reasonable suggestion" will be taken into consideration by the council. Last term, two separate meetings were called to elicit student responses on this issue. Only a total of about 50 students attended.

## A wrap-up of recent by-law changes affecting students' union members

When an out-of-date set of the students' union by-laws was published prematurely, student councillors showed little interest in remedying the situation.

Only three of the 36 councillors appeared at a special meeting held before Christmas to update the by-laws.

By-law committee chairman Frank MacInnis said Thursday, "it was very distressing to find out that councillors are not interested in finding out about the changes."

Several major changes have been instituted since last year.

A restructured election law raised allowable campaign expenses from \$125 to \$250 (president), and \$100 to \$150 (vice-president, secretary, treasurer, coordinator). Campaign time was increased from three days to a week, and the preferential system of voting was dropped.

Mr. MacInnis feels that these

changes will create a more educated electorate, lessen the physical demands on candidates during campaigns, and give candidates more opportunities to present their platforms.

Another change created a Program Board to co-ordinate the actions of various groups responsible for campus activities.

The number of councillors was increased to 36 this year, and a

council speaker will probably be appointed to keep order at council meetings.

Several clubs which were formerly financed by the students' union have been given a new status in the by-laws. They will now finance themselves.

One copy of the revised by-laws has been compiled by Mr. MacInnis for presentation to president David Leadbeater Monday.

### Gateway staff meeting

Gateway staffers meet at 5 p.m. today to debate the pros and cons of electing an editor for next year.

A decision will be made at this meeting.

Suggestions will also be made and asked for concerning the best method to inform students on the referendum questions of SUB expansion, tenure and students' union priorities.

Get in there staffers!